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(312)-

July 21, 1989

Certified Mail
Return Receipt Requested

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JUL 26 1989

Susan Swales,
Environmental Protection Specialist
Superfund Program Management Branch 5HSM-12
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
230 South Dearborn Street
12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604

**SUPERFUND PROGRAM
MANAGEMENT BRANCH**

**Re: Triangle Home Products, Inc.'s Initial Response to
the U.S. EPA's Information Requests in the
Himco, Inc. Dump in Elkhart County, Indiana Matter**

Dear Ms. Swales:

Enclosed is Triangle Home Products, Inc.'s initial response to the U.S. EPA's Information Requests pertaining to the Himco site. The initial response consists of the Affidavit of Lealan L. Kennedy, Plant Superintendent at Triangle's Elkhart, Indiana Plant from 1973 until August 1980. As we advised you in our prior letter, almost all of Triangle's records have been destroyed. Almost all the employees at the Elkhart Plant were terminated or retired upon the cessation of the lighting fixture assembly operations at said plant. As a consequence, it has been extremely difficult to obtain information to accurately respond to your inquiries.

Our investigation is continuing. We shall submit a more detailed and formal response to your agency within fourteen days. In addition, Triangle will advise your agency of any information subsequently discovered and will modify its response if it is determined that any information previously provided is incorrect.

The Kennedy Affidavit describes the assembly process at Triangle's Elkhart Plant. No manufacturing or coating operations were conducted at the plant. All of the liquid

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wastes resulting from the assembly process were stored in 55 gallon drums. Only fourteen to sixteen drums of waste were produced each year. Approximately four drums of spent degreasing material were picked up and recycled by the Gold Shield Division of Detrex Chemical Industries, Inc. each year. In addition, approximately twelve drums containing paint sludge and paint thinner were produced each year. These drums were picked up and disposed of by Ashland Chemical Company of South Bend and another waste disposal firm.

None of Triangle's liquid or process wastes were handled, transported or disposed of by Himco. The Triangle wastes picked up, transported and disposed of by Himco at its site were innocuous wastes comprised of paper products, cardboard shipping containers, wooden pallets and similar items. In short, Triangle's wastes were primarily packaging material and/or were substantially similar in composition to ordinary household waste or garbage.

In summary, it is our position that Triangle Home Products, Inc. is not a Primary Responsible Party because it did not arrange for the disposal of hazardous waste at the Himco site. As stated, Triangle retained Himco to dispose of innocuous or non-hazardous wastes. Further, we believe that the additional information which we shall provide your agency within fourteen days will corroborate our position.

Very truly yours,

ARVEY, HODES, COSTELLO & BURMAN



Charles J. O'Connor
CJO/ek
Encl.

cc: Victor A. Franklin, Esq. (w/encl.)
Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA

James H. Schink, Esq. (w/encl.)
Kirkland & Ellis
(Representative of the Himco Site PRP Group)

AFFIDAVIT OF LEALAN L. KENNEDY

Lealan L. Kennedy, having first been duly sworn, deposes and states that he has been employed by Triangle Home Products, Inc. ("Triangle") from 1970 to the present in various positions.

Affiant's present address is Triangle Home Products, Inc., Swett Avenue, P. O. Box 844, Americus, Georgia 31709, (912) 924-4468.

The affiant states that he has personal knowledge of the facts contained herein unless otherwise indicated; that said facts are true and correct; and, that he is competent to testify thereto.

Affiant's Employment Background

Affiant was first employed by Triangle at its lighting fixture assembly plant in Americus, Georgia in January of 1970. He was first employed as a set-up man for lighting fixture assembly operations and was responsible for pulling all of the component parts from the storage area and making them available for the assembly lines. He was promoted to assembly line supervisor during 1971 and was responsible for the proper assembly of all lighting fixtures and the efficiency of the lighting department. In 1972, the affiant assumed the additional responsibility of scheduling assembly operations.

In May 1973 he was transferred to Triangle's Plant in Elkhart, Indiana. He was promoted to Plant Superintendent and was responsible for all operations at the factory. His responsibilities included supervising the storage of all component parts for lighting, degreasing of raw parts, buffing of degreased parts, painting of degreased and buffed parts, assembly of lighting fixtures, packaging of fixtures for shipments, and the

efficiency of the overall operation. Subsequently, he was promoted to Operations Manager and became responsible for the complete factory operation, shipping and receiving, distribution of finished goods, purchasing and inventory control.

In August 1980 he was transferred from the Elkhart, Indiana plant to Triangle's Ft. Worth, Texas plant and became Operations Manager. He was responsible for the complete factory operation, shipping and receiving, distribution of finished goods, purchasing and inventory control. He held the position as Operations Manager until August 1988.

In August of 1988 he was transferred from the Ft. Worth, Texas plant to Triangle's plant located in Americus, Georgia and again undertook the position of Operations Manager. He is responsible for the entire operation, shipping and receiving, distribution of finished goods, purchasing and inventory control. He is presently employed by Triangle as Operations Manager at the Americus, Georgia plant.

A Description of Triangle's Assembly Process

Because of his background and experience, he is completely familiar with Triangle's light fixture assembly process and distribution system. Specifically, he was employed at Triangle's Elkhart, Indiana plant from May 1973 through August 1980. The operations at the Elkhart plant involved the assembly of lighting fixtures from component parts provided by Triangle's suppliers. No manufacturing activities of any kind ever took place at the Elkhart plant. Further, no plating activities took place at the Elkhart plant.

The component parts of lighting fixtures consist of unfinished and finished steel stamping, unfinished aluminum parts, unfinished and finished steel tubing, finished wood turnings and electrical parts. The major suppliers of the component parts are as follows:

Steel Stamping Finished and Unfinished

1. Chatham Metal Spinning
128-138 Mott Street
New York, NY 10013
2. Richter Metal Spinning
P. O. Box 147
Mt. Vernon, NY 10551
3. Triangle Home Products
1039 East Loop 820 South
Ft. Worth, Texas 76112

Unfinished Aluminum Parts

1. L & L White Metal Castiang
Address Unknown
2. Gim Metal Products
164 Glen Cove Rd.
Carle Place, New York 11514

Unfinished and Finished Steel Tubing

1. Tube Form Corp.
457 North Leavitt Street
Chicago, Illinois 60612
2. Miller Tube Sales
Address Unknown

Finished Wood Turnings

1. All Wood Products
230 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10001

Electrical Parts

1. Leviton Mfg. Co., Inc.
59-25 Little Neck Parkway
Littleneck, NY 11362
2. Triboro Electric
539 Jacksonville Rd.
Warminster, Pennsylvania 18974

The unfinished parts obtained from vendors were painted in different colors per customer requirements at the Elkhart plant. The unfinished parts received from the vendors were lightly coated in oil to prevent rust and were packed in cardboard cartons. In order to prepare these parts for painting, the oil had to be removed. The parts were placed in a vapor degreaser machine. The degreaser contained a heated solvent called trichloroethylene. The solvent was supplied by the Gold Shield Division of Detrex Chemical Industries, Inc. in Indiana. The chemical composition of the solvent is described in a Safety Data Sheet which is attached as Kennedy Exhibit One (1). The parts were put into wire baskets which were suspended in the vapor of the degreaser machine. The parts were cleaned of the protective oil coating within 3 to 5 minutes per basket. The degreaser recycled the trichlorethylene through the process of distillation.

The solvent which was not recaptured by this process was

picked up at the Elkhart Plant by Detrex Chemical Industries Inc. and recycled at its plant. Triangle was given a credit for this material which was applied to the cost of fresh solvent.

After the parts were degreased, some parts received a treatment referred to as buffing. The cleaned parts were held against an abrasive wheel to create a satin effect on the raw metal. This process does not generate any hazardous waste. The buffing material is described in a Safety Data Sheet attached as Kennedy Exhibit Two (2).

After degreasing and buffing, the parts were ready for painting. The paints used to finish the parts were air dry laquers. Paint was applied to the parts with a hand-held air spray paint gun. The paint was purchased from a company called Egyptian Laquer Mfg. Co. in Indiana. Paint thinner was purchased from the local Sherwin-Williams store. The waste generated from the painting process was approximately one 55 gallon drum per month. The method of disposing of these drums is explained in the subsequent section.

Once the component parts were finished, they were taken to the assembly department. Assembly personnel then assembled the component parts into a complete lighting fixture. The fixtures were taken to the packing department. Cardboard cartons were assembled and filled with newspaper. A fixture was placed in a carton and more newspaper was packed around the fixture. The carton was sealed with tape and sent to the warehouse for shipment.

The Disposal of Triangle's Liquid Waste

As explained immediately above, some of the used solvent was recaptured. The solvent that was not recaptured was picked up at the Elkhart plant and recycled by Gold Shield. The degreaser machine was cleaned about every six months. The amount of the waste from the degreasing machine filled approximately three or four 55 gallon drums per year.

As previously explained, approximately twelve drums of waste paint liquid or sludge were generated each year. All of the drums were stored near the dock area of the Elkhart plant until picked up by a chemical waste disposal company.

Triangle's Disposal of Solid Waste

Triangle's assembly and distribution operations generated a considerable amount of trash consisting of paper, cardboard and wood waste. All component parts were received in cardboard cartons shipped on wooden pallets. These cartons were emptied and discarded. Relative to distribution, the lighting fixtures were packed in newspaper and put in cardboard cartons, palletized and shipped to Triangle customers.

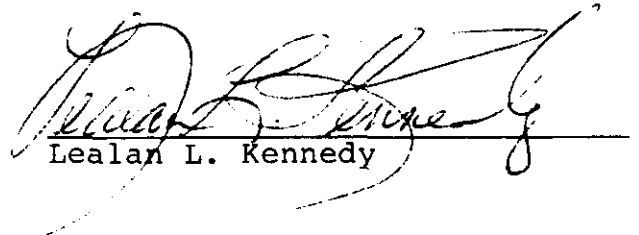
Defective lighting fixture parts were returned to Triangle's suppliers. The defective lighting fixtures returned to Triangle by its retailers were collected and sold to scrap metal dealers.

Triangle contracted with Himco to dispose of its trash or innocuous solid waste. A trash bin or dumpster was placed at the Elkhart facility for this purpose. Himco was called when the container was filled. Himco would then send a truck to pick up the full container and replace it with an empty dumpster. The

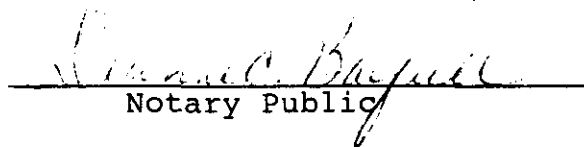
affiant cannot remember the amount of trash or solid waste that would be disposed of within the dumpster during a certain period of time.

Based on his experience and personal observations, the affiant states that Triangle's employees at the Elkhart plant and other plants follow Triangle's policy of not combining liquid waste or sludge with solid waste for the purpose of disposal. No solvents or sludge were included in the trash collected by Himco. Further, no heavy metals were deposited in the dumpsters or containers collected by Himco because heavy metals are not generated by Triangle's assembly process.

Further affiant sayeth naught.


Lealan L. Kennedy

Subscribed and sworn to
before me on this 17
date of ~~June~~, 1989.
JULY


Notary Public

Notary Public, Sumter County, Georgia
My Commission Expires April 21, 1992

Form Approved
OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1200
Approval Expires April 30, 1971

Form No. 100-000-0
May 1969

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WORKPLACE STANDARDS ADMINISTRATION
Bureau of Labor Standards

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

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SECTION I	
MANUFACTURER'S NAME Source of Data: DETREX CHEMICAL IND., INC.	EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NO. Area 313 868-8600
ADDRESS (Number, Street, City, State, and ZIP Code) Box 501 Detroit, Michigan 48232	
CHEMICAL NAME AND SYNONYMS Trichloroethylene	TRADE NAME AND SYNONYMS PERM A CLOR NA
CHEMICAL FAMILY Chlorinated Hydrocarbon	FORMULA CCl₂ = CHCl

SECTION II HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS					
PAINTS, PRESERVATIVES, & SOLVENTS	%	TLV (Units)	ALLOYS AND METALLIC COATINGS	%	TLV (Units)
PIGMENTS			BASE METAL		
CATALYST			ALLOYS		
VEHICLE			METALLIC COATINGS		
SOLVENTS	100	100	FILLER METAL PLUS COATING OR CORE FLUX		
ADDITIVES			OTHERS		
OTHERS					
HAZARDOUS MIXTURES OF OTHER LIQUIDS, SOLIDS, OR GASES				%	TLV (Units)

SECTION III PHYSICAL DATA			
BOILING POINT (°F.)	188	SPECIFIC GRAVITY (H ₂ O = 1)	1.46
VAPOR PRESSURE (mm Hg)	58	PERCENT VOLATILE BY VOLUME (%)	100
VAPOR DENSITY (AIR = 1)	4.54	EVAPORATION RATE (Water = 1)	0.28
SOLUBILITY IN WATER (less than 0.1%)	Negligible		
APPEARANCE AND ODOR	Clear, colorless liquid with characteristic mild ethereal odor.		

SECTION IV FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD DATA			
FLASH POINT (Method used)	None (Closed Cup Method)	FLAMMABLE LIMITS	n.a.
EXTINGUISHING MEDIA		Let	Uel
SPECIAL FIRE FIGHTING PROCEDURES (Note: In chlorinated solvent degreasers that clean aluminum production, use only water to reduce the aluminum reaction, if and when that occurs.)			
UNUSUAL FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS Vapors can be decomposed by intense heat or open flames releasing HCl			

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SECTION V HEALTH HAZARD DATA

THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUE 100 ppm (520 mg/m³)

EFFECTS OF OVEREXPOSURE Overexposure may lead to slight anesthetic feeling, possible irritation to eyes, nose and throat. Continued exposure can result in headaches, fatigue, dizziness, nausea and gradual suppression of consciousness.

EMERGENCY AND FIRST AID PROCEDURES

Move patient to fresh air and if unconscious give artificial respiration or oxygen. Any clothing that has been wet with the solvent liquid should be removed, the skin allowed to air dry completely and then treated with a lanolin cream. If liquid has entered the eyes it should be immediately flushed with lukewarm water for at least 15 minutes.

SECTION VI REACTIVITY DATA

STABILITY

UNSTABLE

STABLE

CONDITIONS TO AVOID

Welding, open flames and infra red heaters.

X

INCOMPATIBILITY (Materials to avoid)

Sodium and Potassium hydroxides and cyanides

HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS

HCl during thermal decomposition

HAZARDOUS
POLYMERIZATION

MAY OCCUR

WILL NOT OCCUR

CONDITIONS TO AVOID

X

SECTION VII SPILL OR LEAK PROCEDURES

STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN CASE MATERIAL IS RELEASED OR SPILLED

Avoid breathing high concentrations of the vapors and avoid contact of the liquid with the skin and clothing. Flush spilled areas with water. Be sure sufficient fresh air enters the area or it should be vacated.

WASTE DISPOSAL METHOD

Used solvent should be recovered by distillation. The residue from distillation may be incinerated, dry welled etc. Check local requirements.

SECTION VIII SPECIAL PROTECTION INFORMATION

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION (Specify type) None necessary when the trichloroethylene is used in a properly designed and operated degreaser or machine.

VENTILATION

LOCAL EXHAUST

Sufficient to maintain TLV

MECHANICAL (General)

Avoid drafts over or at degreasers

SPECIAL

During Clean-outs: Tanks are to be completely emptied and aired or flushed with water.

NOTES

PROTECTIVE GLOVES

Normally not necessary (Neoprene)

EYE PROTECTION

Normally not necessary (glasses/goggles)

OTHER PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

When cleaning tanks never enter until safe or use air respirator. Use buddy system

SECTION IX SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN HANDLING AND STORING

Avoid spillage and leak causing accidents.

OTHER PRECAUTIONS

Avoid spillage, repeated contact with the skin and prolonged breathing of the vapors.

IS 7202.3 (2/2)

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Required under USDL Safety and Health Regulations for Ship Repairing,
Shipbuilding, and Shipbreaking (29 CFR 1915, 1916, 1917)

SECTION I

MANUFACTURER'S NAME The Matchless Metal Polish Company		EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NO. (312) 924-1515
ADDRESS (Number, Street, City, State, and ZIP Code) 840 West 49th Place, Chicago, Illinois 60609		
CHEMICAL NAME AND SYNONYMS None - Buffing Compound	TRADE NAME AND SYNONYMS 6-K-2 Greaseless Composition	
CHEMICAL FAMILY None - Mixture	FORMULA Animal Hide Glue, Water, Alum. Oxide & Iron Oxide.	

SECTION II - HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS

PAINTS, PRESERVATIVES, & SOLVENTS	%	TLV (Units)	ALLOYS AND METALLIC COATINGS	%	TLV (Units)
PIGMENTS N			BASE METAL N		
CATALYST O			ALLOYS O		
VEHICLE N			METALLIC COATINGS N		
SOLVENTS E			FILLER METAL PLUS COATING OR CORE FLUX E		
ADDITIVES			OTHERS		
OTHERS					
HAZARDOUS MIXTURES OF OTHER LIQUIDS, SOLIDS, OR GASES				%	TLV (Units)
N					
O					
N					
E					

SECTION III - PHYSICAL DATA

BOILING POINT (°F.)	N/A	SPECIFIC GRAVITY (H ₂ O=1)	2.96
VAPOR PRESSURE (mm Hg.)	N/A	PERCENT VOLATILE BY VOLUME (%)	N/A
VAPOR DENSITY (AIR=1)	N/A	EVAPORATION RATE (—=1)	N/A
SOLUBILITY IN WATER	N11		
APPEARANCE AND ODOR Dark Red - Odor Nil - Solid Cake In Paper Tubes			

SECTION IV - FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD DATA

FLASH POINT (Method used) 500°F with Cleveland Open Cup	FLAMMABLE LIMITS Same	Lel	Uel
EXTINGUISHING MEDIA Water or Foam			
SPECIAL FIRE FIGHTING PROCEDURES None			
UNUSUAL FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS None			

SECTION V - HEALTH HAZARD DATA

THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUE As mixed in tube no free powder, solid state, no toxic vapors.

Abrasive is alumina oxide powders - inert dust 30MPPCF

EFFECTS OF OVEREXPOSURE

Toxicity by ingestion negative, by inhalation low.

EMERGENCY AND FIRST AID PROCEDURES

N/A

Wash dust from skin with water, flush out eyes with water.

SECTION VI - REACTIVITY DATA

STABILITY	UNSTABLE		CONDITIONS TO AVOID
	STABLE	X	None
INCOMPATIBILITY (Materials to avoid)			None
HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS			None
HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION	MAY OCCUR		CONDITIONS TO AVOID
	WILL NOT OCCUR	X	None

SECTION VII - SPILL OR LEAK PROCEDURES

STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN CASE MATERIAL IS RELEASED OR SPILLED

Treat as solid waste

WASTE DISPOSAL METHOD

As for solid waste

SECTION VIII - SPECIAL PROTECTION INFORMATION

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION (Specify type) In dusty environment above TLV, wear approved protective masks for inert dust.		
VENTILATION	LOCAL EXHAUST	SPECIAL
	MECHANICAL (General) Good air collector system on buffing equipment to keep dust below TLV	
PROTECTIVE GLOVES	EYE PROTECTION	
While polishing	Proper safety goggles when buffing	
OTHER PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT		
None		

SECTION IX - SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN HANDLING AND STORING
Keep from freezing - above 40°F and below 80°F
Compound will get too soft in 90°F and above
OTHER PRECAUTIONS
Rotate stock - keep in cool place 50°F to 70°F.

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OPC 830-340

Form OSHA-20

Rev. May 72

ARVEY, HODES, COSTELLO & BURMAN
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ARVEY, HODES, COSTELLO & BURMAN
180 North La Salle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601-2804

SENDER CJO

FOR MESSENGER DELIVERY

Susan Swales,
TO: Superfund Program Mgmt. Branch 5HSM-12
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
230 South Dearborn, 12th Floor

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- ☐ WAIT FOR REPLY
- ☐ GET RECEIPT SIGNED AND RETURN IT TO ME
- ☐ SERVE PAPERS AND RETURN PROOF OF SERVICE TO ME
- ☐ PICK UP PAPERS
- ☐ MUST BE DONE BY _____

OTHER _____
